



209131
POPE TRUCKING, INC.
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RELOAD AND STORAGE DIVISION

Wednesday, October 15, 2003

Secretary
Surface Transportation board
Washington DC 20423

Re: STB No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 640)



**PROTEST OF CLOSING OF CSX RAILLINE SPUR FROM
MILEPOST AP 594.69 NEAR WARESBORO, GA TO MILEPOST AP
617.94 NEAR PEARSON, GA.**

We wish to protest the proposed closing of the above described rail line by CSX Transportation for the following reasons:

1. Loss of revenue and jobs
2. Loss of future expansion opportunities for our business and other businesses in the area
3. Diminished ability of community to attract new businesses.

As a reload and storage customer on this line, if this line is closed it will adversely affect our business. We would most likely lose at least one current customer and countless other potential customers due to the lack of rail service. While at the current time there is little rail traffic due to the depressed economy in the region, as the economy improves we believe this traffic will increase. The closing of the rail line will result in the loss at our company of 1-5 current jobs, and the prevention of future hiring for our reload division.

As a business with ties and interest in the economy of Atkinson County we are greatly concerned about the effect this closing would have on the future economic development of this area. With no rail service to Pearson, the county seat of Atkinson County, our ability as an already poor and depressed community to attract new business will be greatly diminished. This will affect the economy of the area in a very negative way, as well as tax revenues and the growth of industry.

We respectfully ask that the closing of this line be denied and that options to keep this line open be pursued. Please feel free to contact us for any additional information.

Sincerely,

William Pope
CFO
Pope Trucking Inc

Pat Brown
VP, Logistics
Pope Trucking Inc

**ENTERED
Office of Proceedings**

OCT 17 2003

**Part of
Public Record**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE


I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT ON OCTOBER 15, 2003, I SERVED THE FOREGOING DOCUMENT, PROTEST AGAINST STB NO. AB-55 (SUB - NO. 640) CSX TRANSPORTATION INC. - ABANDONMENT IN ATKINSON AND WARE COUNTIES, GEORGIA (BETWEEN PEARSON AND WARESBORO), BY OVERNIGHT MAIL ON THE FOLLOWING:

NATALIE S. ROSENBERG, ESQ.
CSX TRANSPORTATION, INC.
500 WATER STREET
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202
904-359-1253



LOUIS E. GITOMER, ESQ.
BALL JANIK LLP
1455 F STREET, NW
SUITE 225
WASHINGTON, DC 20005
202-638-3307

THE SECRETARY
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20423


POPE TRUCKING, INC.
PAT BROWN